

## BOOK REVIEW

RICHARD P. WUNDERLIN and BRUCE F. HANSEN. 2000. **Flora of Florida, Volume I. Pteridophytes and Gymnosperms.** (ISBN 0-8130-1805-6, hbk.). University Press of Florida, 15 NW 15<sup>th</sup> Street, Gainesville, FL 32611-2079, U.S.A. (Orders: [www.upf.com](http://www.upf.com)). \$49.95, 384 pp, 8 b&w photos, 68 drawings, bibliography, index, 7" × 10".

"*Flora of Florida, Volume I*, is the first of a proposed eight-volume comprehensive reference to the more than 3,800 vascular plants, native and non-native, known to occur growing wild in the state." This provides standard botanical treatments for all families, genera, and species of the ferns and gymnosperms, including keys, descriptions, nomenclature, illustrations, and summary information on habitat and geographic distribution. Introductory chapters, good for the whole *Flora of Florida* series, provide overviews of the physical setting, vegetation, and botanical exploration of the state. A number of excellent biographical capsules form part of the 'biographical exploration' chapter. At the end are Literature Cited, General Index, Index to Common Names, and Index to Scientific Names.

It's obviously unusual that two separate volumes dealing primarily with the ferns and fern allies of Florida appear the same year, but the treatments are largely complementary and the authors obviously were in communication, as Gil Nelson provided some of the dust jacket PR commentary for the W&H volume: "This important addition to the botanical literature of Florida and the eastern United States will be welcomed by professional and amateur botanists and field biologists throughout the region." W&H include 152 species and 9 hybrids; there are various differences in taxonomic interpretation at the species, genus, and family levels between the two treatments, but they cover essentially the same species.

In contrast to the Nelson volume, W&H provide longer and more detailed technical descriptions, detailed and formal synonymy, keys to all genera with more than a single species, and a line drawing (habit and details, placed with the text) of one species for each genus. Think of the W&H volume as the technical companion to the Nelson volume—a serious pteridologist in the Southeast surely will want both books. Of course, it would have been good (from my point of view) to have all the information in a single volume. Gymnosperms are covered only in the W&H volume.—Guy L. Nesom, *Botanical Research Institute of Texas, 509 Pecan Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102-4060, U.S.A.*